

The Quarterly



Keep Scotland Beautiful

Two ladies, Kate Stevenson and Isobel Ives from "Keep Scotland Beautiful" arrived outside Quarter Primary School on Monday 11th August. Jim Milligan was waiting for them and Heather Milne arrived a few minutes later. Everyone was happy to start the tour by looking at the school garden. Heather guided us through all areas of the garden and explained about them. The ladies photographed some areas of the garden. The party then walked up to the church and Kate Stevenson who was a judge last year commented that she observed a marked improvement in the overall appearance over the whole length of Limekilnburn Road in relation to its weed free appearance and cleanliness. She



was informed that South Lanarkshire Council had helped to create that situation. Both ladies were impressed by all of the mangers at the school and at the church. They liked the freshly painted half barrels.

We spoke about the church garden and how it was intended to build raised beds to grow flowers, both appeared suitably impressed. They walked from the church back into the village and down to the cross. They suggested, for next year, all half barrels and the two large tubs at the cross should be planted up with more trailing plants. Isobel Ives actually said that trailing begonias would look good in the tubs. She reckons they could trail down the sides to around 12 inches from the ground. The tubers could be lifted and used annually provided they are properly cared for over the winter. This would, if carried out successfully, reduce annual costs incurred in the buying of new plants. We were asked if anything new had developed since last year and informed them that the open grassed area on the right as entry is made to Quarter on Carscallan Road had been planted up with pieris plants. They were happy to have a look at it. They liked the grass banking and the pieris since it creates a good impression immediately upon entering the village boundary. The opportunity was then taken to explain details of the new poly tunnel and show them the proposed site. Judging is ongoing all through the year and Beautiful Scotland like photographs showing winter planting, spring floral displays, spring planting and summer floral displays. Photographs showing workers, especially youngsters, are also appreciated. The judges asked about our winter planting and we pointed out that we intended planting bulbs and pansies in the half barrels and tubs. They were informed bulbs are already planted in the verges of Carscallan Road and come up each year and were impressed with this. The results of the judging will be announced at The Presentation of Awards at The Brunton Halls, Musselburgh on Wednesday 17th September 2008. Beautiful Scotland also organise a 'clinic' in Stirling in November and an invitation will be received by Quarter in Bloom. The ladies left around midday saying as they drove off, "You are on the right track".

1



The Blue Waters

The "Blue Waters" in Quarter used to be an old pond situated close to where the Go-Kart track- and Stables are on the left hand side of the road heading towards Quarter Fishery.

In the old days a railway line from Larkhall passed through Quarter and stories are told of the train that came off the tracks and disappeared into the "Blue Waters".

My story is true and was witnessed by our whole family.

One sunny day, when my niece and her husband were visiting us from Portsmouth, we decided to take the dog for a walk and head up past the Church and along the dirt track road to the Blue Waters pond.

Before we reached the pond I explained to our visitors about the various stories I had heard about the "Blue Waters" and in particular about the large pike fish that was supposed to be lurking in the pond. This fish was reckoned to be so big that it could eat something as large as a dog, and as my dog liked to swim I said not to throw anything in the water so as not to encourage the dog to go for a swim.

Barry, my niece's husband, did not believe my tales and when we reached the Blue Waters he proceeded to break a branch from a nearby tree and throw it into the water. There was a splash when the branch hit the water but I held on to the dog and Barry said "Let the dog swim! There is nothing in the water".

After a few moments he threw another branch into the water and again there was a splash when the branch hit the water but this time after a few seconds there was another splash and the branch immediately sank.

By this time Barry's face changed colour and he said "Let's go! This place is spooky. Why did the branch hit the water and then sink?"

What made the branch sink?

Was it the large pike or was it the same thing that made the whole train disappear?

The mystery of the "Blue waters" has never been solved and many of the old worthies of Quarter will tell you that the Blue Waters and the Blue Nun, a ghost who has been seen many times in Quarter, will always remain the unsolved mystery's of this spooky village that we live in.

By TJ

Quarter Community Association

The Quarterly is funded by "Quarter And Its People" which can be purchased from the village shop or the editor at a cost of £10.00. As an alternative we have a CD of the book which includes all the back issues of our Quarterly Newsletter plus hundreds of photographs of the village, all for just £10.00.

I would just like to remind you that there is a bottle bank for the public use positioned behind the Bowling club.

Quarter in Bloom

An announcement was made by Liz Anderson during the summer planting that she intends to take up residence on the Mull of Kintyre, running a Post Office and General Store.

I pointed out that it may be difficult to run Quarter in Bloom from there! We wish Liz every success with her new venture and would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of all Quarter residents who appreciate the hard work and extensive time spent on improving the village. Liz will be sorely missed especially as I have yet to find a replacement for Chairperson of Quarter in Bloom. All candidates please apply to Alan Johnstone 281321.

Garden Competition

The judging of the front gardens was held on August the 28th by South Lanarkshire's Gerard Devaney, who commented on the high standard of front gardens, especially considering the difficult growing conditions this year. "It makes my job that much more difficult when there are so many to choose from. However there can be only one winner and based on diversity, varying height, colour and all round effort displayed in the garden, I have awarded the prizes as follows:-

1st Prize & winner of the Quarter in Bloom Shield to Mr & Mrs Baird of 10 Limekilnburn Road



2nd Prize to Mr & Mrs Moore of Powforth View Sunnyside



3rd Prize to Mrs R. Dickson of 60 Limekilnburn Rd



Commendation Awards

- No 7 Elm Court, great layout
- No 7 Poplar Crescent, plenty of volume
- No 26 Darngaber Gardens, good pots and shrubs
- No 28 Darngaber Gardens, good pots and shrubs
- No 50 Limekilnburn Road, good colour and pots
- No 24 Limekilnburn Road, good diversity and colour
- No 10 Merrick Gardens, great diversity of shrubs & trees
- No 9 Cadzow Road, great borders
- No 23 Limekilnburn Road, great small garden
- No 41 Limekilnburn Road, great colour
- No 8 Chestnut Way, good colour strong plants

Quarter Neighbourhood Watch

Crime reporting rates for the village remain low. Electronic '20 is plenty' signs are due for installation soon on the approaches to Quarter Primary. These signs are designed to activate during school hours to encourage traffic to slow down and prevent accidents.

Following the success of the 'Fun-day' held in Quarter school there has been a call to repeat the activity again soon. More details on this will follow in the near future.

Thanks to those who took part in the raffle for the dinner for four at Celtic park and the Directors Box seats for the opening game of the Premier League between Celtic and St Mirren. £670 was raised and the prize was donated by Mr Giloolly of Inland Engineering, the new operators of the Clay Pit. The winning number was drawn by Councillor Andy Carmichael and the prize won by Eddie McKenna of Quarter. The funds generated and those of the next raffle, will go towards activities/materials for the residents of the village. The next raffle includes a prize of a signed Rangers top and will be drawn on 15th September,

We are always looking for new members to represent their respective streets. If you would like to volunteer please contact Carol Cain who will be happy to explain what commitment would be involved.

Prepared by Dr Jim McMEnamin,
Chairman,
Quarter Neighbourhood Watch.'

Quarter Primary School

In June Quarter Primary School was asked to help plant the tubs around the village. On a very hot, sunny Saturday afternoon (there really was one!), Mrs Ireland, Elle Wilson and Gemma Wilson worked to create colourful tubs of flowers for all to appreciate. We would like to take up this opportunity in years to come but would like more helpers please, as we had to work very hard to plant up the tubs. This work was done as part of our eco-work which is to be assessed on September 24th. We've worked very hard, so keep your fingers crossed that we will get our third green flag.



(The girls help was very much appreciated and I have to say I think the tub shown in the picture has proved to be the best in the village. Ed)

Culzean Country Park

On June 17th, the whole school visited Culzean Country Park for our annual summer outing. Despite leaving in a downpour, by the time we arrived at our destination, the rain had stopped and the weather was fair. Each class took part



in an educational activity which included a visit to the castle itself, life in a Victorian kitchen, woodland walk and orienteering within the grounds. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed some free time in which to enjoy the play areas, shop and grounds. The outing was

a great success and the rain didn't return until our journey home.

By Elle Wilson

Holiday Dates

September Weekend - The school will close at 3 p.m. on **Thursday 26th September** and re-open on **Tuesday 30th September.**

October break - The school will close at 3p.m. on **Friday 10th October** and re-open on **Monday 20th October** at 9 a.m.

Faye McNaughton Head Teacher

Website address: www.quarterprimary.uk.org

Quarter Primary PTA

Anyone interested in becoming a PTA member or wishing to know more about ways in which you can offer help please contact Karen Wood on (01698) 424917.

Quarterly Newsletter

The newsletter badly needs a news reporter to seek out the stories that matter to the village. If anyone can help, please get in touch with the Editor.

It has been suggested that we also provide the newsletter by email and I thought this would be a good idea. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email then please send your email address to the Editor at johnstone435@btinternet.com. You will then be assured of delivery of the future issues.

Quarter Toddler Group

If you have a child aged from birth to pre-school, then why not come along to your local Toddler Group? We have lots of fun every Wednesday with loads of toys, colouring in, music and yummie toast. We meet in the Church Hall from 10 - 12am. If you would like to find out anything else then give Jean a call on 427344.

Charity Garden Party

The annual Charity Garden Party at the Quarter Manse was once again a great success with 200 people attending and sunny weather for the occasion. An amount of over £3000 was raised for a South African Shelter for AIDS orphans.

1. Joan Brown in her Mama Mia! hat.
2. Morag and Tommy Quinn enjoying the sunshine.
3. An elegant Joan Parry and John Baird



Quarter Church Guild

The opening night for the Quarter Church Guild will be Wednesday 8th October at 7.30 pm when existing and new members will receive a warm welcome. Before the opening of the Guild however there is the Bacon 'n Butty morning on Saturday 4th October from 10 am till 12 noon in the Church Hall. So whether you wish to call it a late breakfast or an early lunch please come along. All money raised goes to a good cause.

Ann Milligan

Guild President

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group will re-commence on Friday 26th September at 11.00 am with a coffee morning in aid of Cancer Relief MacMillan Nurses. The usual meetings will continue on the following Fridays starting at 12.30 pm in the Church Hall.



Quarter Athletic



FINAL COUNTDOWN: Quarter Athletic recently had two football teams reach finals at the prestigious Umbro International Cup in Manchester.

Over 400 teams from 20 nations take part in the competition every year.

Coach Jacqui Ritchie said: "This is the first time we had ever attended anything like this, and we travelled with a small squad of 13 boys".

"We were one of only a few clubs to enter two teams, and for both of them to be so successful, and be noticed to be playing at a high standard, was amazing".

"We only lost one game in the entire tournament, and that was one of the two finals!"

Quarter Athletic are looking for players to strengthen their 1990 and 1997 teams. The club plays in the Lanarkshire Football Development Association League and train twice a week in and around Hamilton.

Interested boys should contact Neil McLaughlin (1990) on 07850 746759 or Jacqui Ritchie (1997) on 07831 192761.

Outdoor Microphone System

On the 4th July 2008 the Quarter Community Association purchased a Yamaha Stagepas Outdoor Musical System for the use of both the Quarter Parish Church and Hamilton South Parish Church and any public function within the village of Quarter and Hamilton South areas. The unit itself will be in the ownership of Quarter Parish Church and administered by the Church Board for the areas of use as mentioned above. Anybody requiring such a system can make a request from the Quarter Church Board.

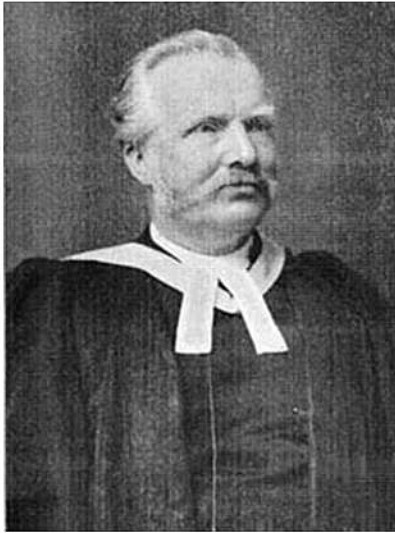
CROSS ALK

"For the bread that God gives is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Sir," they asked him, "give us this bread always." "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty." Joh 6:33

The staple diet for most of the peoples of the world is bread. Rich and poor, black and white, young and old, all share the need of bread. For many it is the one thing that makes the difference between life and death. When Jesus describes himself as the *Bread of Life*, he offers to fill every human soul with something that can conquer death and give life. When we believe in him as Lord and Saviour, we are fed in our deepest beings, and we inherit eternal life.

"I am telling you the truth: those who hear my words and believe in him who sent me have eternal life. They will not be judged, but have already passed from death to life" Joh 5:24

A Tragic Sermon for Quarter



The Rev George Blair, Minister at Quarter Parish Church left a signed copy of his sermon dated 23rd December 1906.

In that sermon, Mr. Blair wrote this at his desk in the Manse:

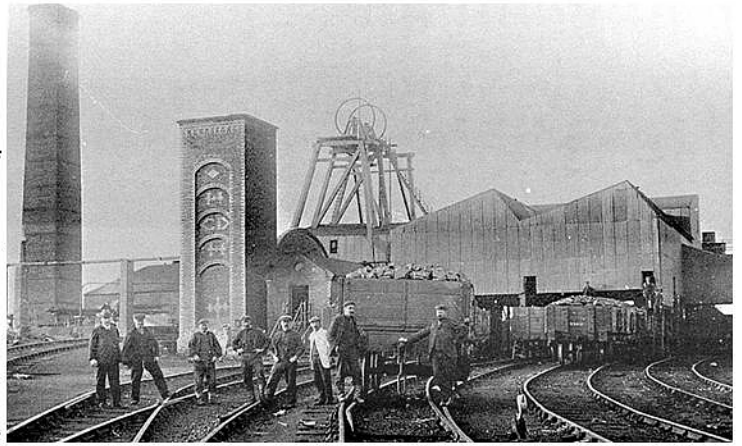
"On the morning of Thursday last, I tried to arrange my thoughts for the service of today. I read over the Epistle of James and came upon these words, 'Go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and

buy and sell and get gain, whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.... For what ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that."

I read those words as the early horns blew and the lamps of the miners going to their work flashed against the windows as they passed on. How little could they, or I, think that on the morrow the shaft these men were on their way to descend would rush in and crush valuable lives, and weigh down with unutterable sorrow the tender hearts of the widows and the fatherless and spread darkness and gloom over the whole community. But after the sad calamity was over and the brave and heroic rescuers had finished their sad task, the words returned to my mind with new force and solemn meaning, "Ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

The village tragedy that Mr Blair was referring to was recorded in the Scotsman of 22 December 1906:

Fatal Colliery Accident At Quarter – Yesterday afternoon a serious colliery accident which resulted in the loss of three lives took place in No. 8 pit Quarter Colliery belonging to the United Collieries (Limited.). Full information is not yet to hand but it appears that about two o'clock the engineman in the winding house felt a grip on the tow rope as the cage was going down the shaft indicating that something was amiss in the shaft; and confirmation was given to this by a piece of the slide on which the cage runs falling to the pit bottom. The manager Mr Robert Gardiner assisted by the oversman Andrew Maxwell and James MacGinty, oncostman, then proceeded up the shaft to make an examination. They had ascended some distance when a mass of material - stones and dirt - came away from the side above them and broke the tow rope. The result was that the cage and the men were precipitated to the pit bottom. The cage was crushed almost flat, while the men's bodies were covered with a huge mass of wreckage and rubbish. Death must have been instantaneous. The pit is very deep, one shaft going down something like one hundred and fifty fathoms. A relief party was at once formed under the charge of Mr MacDougall manager of Upper Quarter pits, and Mr Arnott district manager for the company arrived on the scene, while Drs Steel and Stewart were in early attendance with the view of rendering any possible assistance. It was quickly ascertained however that hope for the survival of any of the men was out of the question. Strenuous efforts were made to have the bodies unearthed but at nine o'clock, when our representative left, they had not been recovered though they were momentarily expected at the pithead.



No 7 Pit at Quarter

About two hundred miners were at work when the accident happened but they were brought to the surface by No. 7 pit which adjoins No. 8.

News of the calamity quickly spread to the village and naturally there was great consternation and grief. Large crowds gathered about the pithead where arrangements had been made for confining the bodies as soon as they were brought up. All three men were well up in years, and leave widows and large families, MacGinty leaving nine children. Quarter village is situated about three miles from Hamilton. Coal has been worked from the Quarter field from an early period but No. 8 pit was only sunk twenty years ago for the purpose of winning Simpsonland coalfield. The collieries were formerly owned by Messrs Colin Dunlop & Company but they were taken over by the United Collieries at the time of the flotation of that company. [Scotsman 22 December 1906]

(A copy of the full sermon script preached by Rev George Blair on the Sunday following the accident is available on request. Ed)

Letters/Emails to the Editor

Hi,

Very interested in your site. My father and grandparents lived in the miner's rows in Quarter, Do you have any knowledge of the Truscott family?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Jim Truscott MBE
Motherwell

Hello Alan and George,

Hope you are all well and flourishing, everyone is good here. Allison and Euan have both finished school for the summer and are enjoying the beach life! I am still doing some gardens but have been concentrating my efforts on starting a new business in town. I offer services and products to tourists in Sitges and you can see what it is all about if you visit my site at

www.yellowjack.org

I was just thinking about the old country and tried to look up the newsletter on line. I found the website and thought the Quarterly would be posted on it, is that not the case? Kind regards, Willie McGillivray et al.

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Next newsletter will be in December 2008.